

INCOMING TELEGRAM**Department of State**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~56
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FROM: LONDON

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2370, NOVEMBER 2, 6 P.M.

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NAVY
RMRSENT DEPARTMENT 2370, REPEATED INFORMATION TEHRAN 62, BAGHDAD 65,
BASRA UNNUMBERED, KHORRAMSHAHR 7.

DEPTTEL 3520.

IN REVIEWING LATEST MESSAGES RE SHATT PROBLEM WITH EMBASSY
OFFICER, FOREIGN OFFICER EASTERN DEPARTMENT (HILLER) COMMENTED
THAT BRITISH FLAG VESSELS HAVE EVIDENTLY RECENTLY BEEN FLYING
"EVERY POSSIBLE FLAG", I.E. HOISTING BOTH IRAQI AND IRANIAN
FLAGS WHEN ENTERING SHATT AND DESTINED IRANIAN PORTS. HILLER
ADDED THAT FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMATION INDICATED IRAQI PILOTS
OFTEN FORCED VESSELS Haul DOWN IRANIAN FLAG UNTIL SHIP ACTUALLY
REACHED KHOSROABAD OR KHORRAMSHAHR, AND THAT LIKEWISE IRANIAN
FLAG LOWERED UPON DEPARTURE FROM THESE IRANIAN PORTS, BUT THAT
INCIDENTS APPARENTLY BEING AVOIDED AND THIS MAIN THING,
IN FOREIGN OFFICE VIEW.

WHITNEY

JR

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